



Basic Training Information

A/1-19th Field Artillery

23 September 2015, CLASS 84-15



FROM THE COMMANDER:

Greetings!

I am Captain Jermaine K. Quinn, your Soldier's Battery Commander during his/her Initial Entry Training in the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely here at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and has begun basic combat training in Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion 19th Field Artillery Regiment (A/1-19 FA).

During the nine week training period, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be very strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed will help each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the cadre training your Soldier is a very dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare and training of each Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the Army's most important asset and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's basic training experience both challenging and rewarding.

YOUR SOLDIER MAY CALL HOME SOON!

You may have received a phone call from your Soldier by now. Within the first 72 hours of physically arriving to Fort Sill your Soldier was given the opportunity to make a short phone call. I will ensure that your Soldier makes another short phone call, to the person of their choosing, within 48 hours of reporting to Alpha Battery. During the cycle your Soldier will have the opportunity to earn phone privileges during each phase change (about every three weeks). Please know that, although it is rare, this privilege may be denied for misconduct or poor performance.

For the short duration of Basic Combat Training your Soldier will not have their personal cell phones available to them.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK.

Family and friends are a big part of the Army community and although your loved one cannot call each night to keep you informed of their progress and achievements, I will attempt to bridge that gap with frequent updates to the Battery's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/A1-19-FA-434-FA-BDE-159096183642/timeline/?ref=nf>

If you simply type in "A/1-19FA" in the search engines "Google" or "Bing" the first result will be the Battery Facebook page.

YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am certain that he/she will miss you a great deal. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity, and you can be assured that your Soldier will have ample time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

Rank Last Name, First Name MI.

A 1/19 FA, Platoon # (Example: 4th PLT), Class 84-15

5970 SOUTH BOUNDARY RD

FORT SILL, OK 73503-5001.

* Abbreviations for US Army ranks are PVT for Private (E-1), PV2 for Private (E-2), PFC for Private First Class (E-3), and SPC for Specialist (E-4). If you do not yet know your loved ones Platoon (PLT#), and or rank, don't worry we will ensure they will get your letters, however, it will make it easier to distribute the mail to all 240 Soldiers if you include it in future letters.

Packages are not generally necessary because your Soldier is able to buy additional items here at our local Post Exchange (Store). However, if you choose to send your Soldier a package, please observe the following guidelines:

- ✓ **No alcohol or products containing alcohol (to include mouthwash), tobacco, or narcotics (prescription or over the counter)**
- ✓ **No weapons**
- ✓ **No radios, TVs, cell phones, cameras, or other electronic devices**
- ✓ **No pornographic or morally questionable materials**
- ✓ **No magazines**
- ✓ **No food items**
- ✓ **When in doubt, just send letters**

WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?

The best thing you can do is to write positive letters. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Your Soldier is incredibly busy; so even if you do not receive a reply within the first couple of weeks, continue to send positive letters to motivate them until they can reply.

HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?

I promise, your soldier is not reliving those first 30 minutes of the movie Full Metal Jacket. Today's soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, and with dignity and respect. Abuse of any kind is not tolerated. Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-commissioned Officers in the Army, and are highly qualified to train recruits.

MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?

Yes. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations. They are allowed to attend a religious service and religious education classes as available through the Chaplain's office. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?

If your Soldier misses or fails a task required for graduation, he will be given another opportunity to make up the training. If a Soldier still fails to meet the requirement, I will decide whether or not that Soldier will graduate.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office, who will contact me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted. Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Should any injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's professional medical staff. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits.

SHIPPING TO ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT)

Your Soldier will ship to their next duty station via government-provided transportation. They usually schedule transportation for your Soldier to depart early on the day following graduation.

WHEN CAN I SEE MY SOLDIER?

We are unable to allow families to visit their Soldiers during training. However, the day prior to their graduation we are able to allow Soldiers a pass to visit with their families. This day is referred to as Family Day and will be on the morning of the 24th of November 2015. You will also be able to attend the graduation ceremonies the following day on 25 November 2015. If at all possible please come to show your support and pride in your Soldier. When planning travel, Lawton, Oklahoma is the nearest town to FT Sill (<http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com>). More details on these two special days will become available by graduation letter, and on our website.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, your Soldier will graduate at 1000 A.M. on Wednesday, 25 November 2015, at McMahon Auditorium in Lawton, OK. (Location is subject to change, you will be notified in a timely manner. A map will be posted on our Facebook page.) After graduation, your Soldier will report to their next duty station for Advanced Individual Training. In a few weeks, we will be posting another letter on Facebook with information concerning your Soldier's family day and graduation.

Please know that there will be some Soldiers who will not graduate due to various reasons. Have a candid conversation with your Soldier so that that you may make your reservations for lodging in advance.

HOW DO I GET ON FORT SILL?

Due to security measures, access to Fort Sill is limited to Department of Defense card holders (The V.A.-issued identification card no longer meets the criteria for installation access) and those individuals who have received a post pass from the Fort Sill Visitor

Control Center. Enclosed you will find detailed instructions on how to receive a post pass. It is imperative that you follow these instructions or go to the Visitor Control Center yourself prior to graduation to attain a post pass. Failing to do so will cause entry to Fort Sill to be delayed and/or denied. Additionally, please circulate this information to other family members and friends who could potentially attend Family Day and Graduation activities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

POINTS OF CONTACT

If we can be of assistance to you in any matter relating to your Soldier, please feel free to contact any of the following people by phone, mail or email:

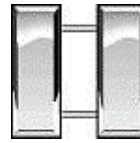


Battery First Sergeant

Jonathan C. Griffin

e-mail: jonathan.c.griffin.mil@mail.mil

phone: 580-442-1410



Battery Commander:

Jermaine K. Quinn

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